

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the specification, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel to read as follows:

1-36. (Cancelled)

37. (New) A method of depositing a material onto a substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

pressure feeding a material solution comprising one or more precursor compounds and a solvent from a material solution supply to an outlet;

generating an electric field between the outlet and a substrate to provide a corona spray of droplets of the material solution and electrostatically guide the droplets from the outlet towards a surface of the substrate; and

providing a decreasing temperature gradient from the surface of the substrate to the outlet.

38. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the step of generating an electric field comprises the step of applying a voltage to the outlet such that droplets of the material solution emerging from the outlet are charged and attracted to the substrate by virtue of the electric field.

39. (New) A method according to claim 37, comprising the step of relatively rotating and/or translating the outlet and the substrate during the method.

40. (New) A method according to claim 37, comprising the step of varying the material solution composition and/or concentration during the method.

41. (New) A method according to claim 37, comprising the step of reversing the polarity of the electric field between the outlet and the substrate at intervals during the method.

42. (New) A method according to claim 37, comprising the step of locally heating areas of the substrate to enhance material deposition at the heated areas.

43. (New) A method according to claim 37, comprising the step of electrostatically and/or magnetically steering the stream of droplets in transit from the outlet to the substrate.

44. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the material is deposited as a film.

45. (New) A method according to claim 44, wherein the film is a multicomponent oxide film, a simple oxide film or a doped film.

46. (New) A method according to claim 44, wherein the film is one or more of a structural film, a functional film and an electroceramic film.

47. (New) A method according to claim 37, in which the material is deposited as a powder.

48. (New) A method according to claim 37, in which the material solution is a polymer solution.

49. (New) A method according to claim 48, comprising the step of maintaining the applied electric field for at least part of the time during which the material deposited on the substrate is allowed to cool.

50. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the material solution further comprises a pH-modifying catalyst.

51. (New) A method according to claim 50, wherein the catalyst is an acid, added in sufficient quantity to give a material solution pH of between 2 and 5.

52. (New) A method according to claim 51, wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of ethanoic acid and hydrochloric acid.

53. (New) A method according to claim 50, wherein the catalyst is an alkali, added in sufficient quantity to give a material solution pH of between 9 and 12.

54. (New) A method according to claim 53, wherein the catalyst is NH₃.

55. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the droplets of material solution are charged to approximately 5 to 30 kV with respect to the substrate.

56. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the temperature decreases to a temperature in the approximate range from about 650 to about 100 °C.

57. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the temperature decreases to a temperature in the approximate range from about 400 to about 100 °C.

58. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the method is performed within the confines of a container and gaseous reactants are supplied to the container, to enable deposition of a film.

59. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the material is Lead Zirconate Titanate (PZT), and the material solution is manufactured by the steps of:

- (a) mixing CH₃OCH₂CH₂OH (solvent) with a first precursor compound Pb(CH₃CO₂)₂ and Zr(OC₃H₇)₄ and a second precursor compound Ti(OC₃H₇)₄, and
- (b) adding a catalyst to the mixture to provide a material solution of a required pH.

60. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the material is PbTiO₃, and the material solution is manufactured by the steps of:

- (a) mixing CH₃OCH₂CH₂OH (solvent) with a first precursor compound Pb(CH₃CO₂)₂ and a second precursor compound Ti(OC₃H₇)₄, and
- (b) adding a catalyst to the mixture to provide a material solution of a required pH.

61. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the material is BaTiO₃, and the material solution is manufactured by the steps of:

- (a) mixing CH₃OCH₂CH₂OH (solvent) with a first precursor compound Ba(CH₃CO₂)₂ and a second precursor compound Ti(OC₃H₇)₄, and
- (b) adding a catalyst to the mixture to provide a material solution of a required pH.

62. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the material is SnO₂-In₂O₃, and the material solution is manufactured by the steps of:

- (a) mixing ethanol (solvent) with a first precursor compound In(NO₃)₃.xH₂O and a second precursor compound SnCl₂, and
- (b) adding a catalyst to the mixture to provide a material solution of a required pH.

63. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the material is La(Sr)MnO₃, and the material solution is manufactured by the steps of:

- (a) mixing about 20% H₂O and about 80% ethanol (solvent) with a first precursor compound La(NO₃)₃.xH₂O and Mn(NO₃).6H₂O and a second precursor compound SrNO₃, and
- (b) adding a catalyst to the mixture to provide a material solution of a required pH.

64. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the material is Yttria Stabilised Zirconia (YSZ), and the material solution is manufactured by the steps of:

- (a) mixing propanol or butanol (solvent) with a first precursor compound Y(O₂C₈H₁₅)₃ and a second precursor compound Zr(OC₄H₉)₄, and
- (b) adding a catalyst to the mixture to provide a material solution of a required pH.

65. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the material is Yttria Stabilised Zirconia (YSZ), and the material solution is manufactured by the steps of:

- (a) mixing propanol or butanol (solvent) with a first precursor compound Y(O₂C₈H₁₅)₃ and a second precursor compound Zr(OC₃H₇)₄, and
- (b) adding a catalyst to the mixture to provide a material solution of a required pH.

66. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the material is NiO-YSZ, and the material solution is manufactured by the steps of:

- (a) mixing propanol (solvent) with a first precursor compound $\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{Zr}(\text{OC}_3\text{H}_7)_4$ and a second precursor compound $\text{Y}(\text{O}_2\text{C}_8\text{H}_{15})_3$, and
- (b) adding a catalyst to the mixture to provide a material solution of a required pH.

67. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the film has a thickness between a nm and approximately 100 μm .

68. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the step of pressure feeding the material solution comprises the step of pumping the material solution.

69. (New) A method according to claim 37, wherein the temperature gradient is such that evaporation of the solvent from, and one or both of decomposition of and chemical reaction of, the droplets occurs as the droplets approach the surface of the substrate.

70. (New) A method of depositing a material onto a substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) feeding a material solution comprising one or more precursor compounds and a solvent to an outlet disposed opposite the substrate to provide a stream of droplets of the material solution;
- (b) generating an electric field electrostatically to attract the droplets from the outlet towards the substrate; and
- (c) providing a temperature gradient between the outlet and the substrate; wherein the feeding of the material solution, the electric field and the temperature gradient are configured such that the droplets one or both of decompose and react prior to reaching the substrate so as to form a powder.

71. (New) A method of depositing a material onto a substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

feeding a material solution comprising one or more precursor compounds and a solvent to an outlet to provide a stream of droplets of the material solution;
generating an electric field electrostatically to attract the droplets from the outlet towards the substrate;
providing a temperature gradient between the outlet and the substrate;
cooling the material deposited on the substrate; and
maintaining the electric field for at least a part of the time during which the deposited material is cooled.

72. (New) A method of depositing a material onto a substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

pressure feeding a material solution comprising one or more precursor compounds and a solvent from a material solution supply to an outlet;
generating an electric field between the outlet and a substrate disposed opposite the outlet to provide a corona spray of droplets of the material solution and electrostatically guide the droplets from the outlet towards a surface of the substrate; and
providing a decreasing temperature gradient from the surface of the substrate to the outlet.